

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 MMO-04 ACDA-10 /120 W

----- 097454

P R 300120Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 804

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CNO

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCPACFLT

DIA

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

USLO, CINCSOUTH NAPLES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USLO PEKING

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, XO, NZ

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON STATED JANUARY 29 THAT WHILE GNZ FAVORS MILITARY DE-ESCALATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, IT IS CLEAR SOVIETS ARE INCREASING THEIR NAVAL ACTIVITY AND GNZ WANTS U.S. TO DEVELOP DIEGO GARCIA BASE TO COUNTER SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP. END SUMMARY.

2. PM MULDOON, SPEAKING TO PRESS AT CONCLUSION GOVERNMENT CAUCUS MEETING JANUARY 29, STATED NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT WANTS U.S. TO DEVELOP A MILITARY BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA TO COUNTER BUILDUP OF SOVIET NAVAL STRENGTH. HE SAID WHILE HIS GOVERNMENT FAVORS MILITARY DE-ESCALATION IN INDIAN OCEAN, IT IS CLEAR THE SOVIETS ARE INCREASING THEIR NAVAL ACTIVITY AND HE HOPES U.S. WILL ACCEPT ITS GLOBAL COUNTER-BALANCING ROLE AND PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA. HE NOTED GOVERNMENT'S OPINION ON THIS WAS CONVEYED TO U.S. SENATORS (CODEL HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN) AND CONGRESSMEN (CODEL RANDALL) WHO RECENTLY MET WITH NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS IN WELLINGTON.

3. PM EXPANDED "WITH THE SUEZ CANAL OPEN TO SHIPPING AGAIN, AND WITH VIETNAM NOW IN COMMUNIST HANDS AND PROVIDING BASES FOR SOVIET WARSHIPS, THE RUSSIANS CAN RANGE THROUGH THE INDIAN OCEAN TO AN EXTENT THAT WASN'T UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBLE TWO YEARS AGO.

4. "I HOPE THE UNITED STATES, AS LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD, WILL ACCEPT THEIR GLOBAL COUNTER-BALANCING ROLE AND GO AHEAD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA AS A COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPLY BASE."

5. "THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES'

PROPOSAL CLOSELY PARALLELS THE REACTION OF AUSTRALIA'S
NEW GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T FORMALLY PASSED ON THE
VIEWS TO CANBERRA."

6. "OUR CONCERN IS OVER GLOBAL STRATEGY. THE SOVIET
UNION'S INITIATIVE IN SEEKING BASES IN AREAS WHERE IT
PREVIOUSLY HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH ITSELF CAN BE
CLEARLY SEEN IN ANGOLA."

7. "THE SOVIET NAVY'S BEEN DELIBERATELY INCREASED IN
SIZE TO BE THE GREATEST NAVY IN THE WORLD, AND SOME ACTION
SHOULD BE TAKEN TO COUNTERACT ITS GROWING STRENGTH IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN."
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